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IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 4-9, 12, and 13.

Amend claims 1-3, 10, and 11 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A check comprising:
sheet material;
means defining at least one field of pre-printed information symbol on the sheet material; and
means for storing on the sheet material apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one image quality characteristic of the at least one pre-printed information contained in the at least one field symbol on the sheet material to allow a determination to be made about the image quality of the pre-printed symbol on the sheet material based upon the stored apriori reference image quality data.
2. (currently amended) A check comprising:
sheet material;
at least one eneeded symbol disposed printed on the sheet material; and
means for storing on the sheet material apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one image quality characteristic of the eneeded symbol printed on the sheet material to allow a determination to be made about the image quality of the symbol based upon the stored apriori reference image quality data.
3. (currently amended) A method of storing apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one image quality characteristic of a symbol pre-printed information contained in at least one field of a on the check, the method comprising:

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storing the apriori reference image quality data on the check to allow a determination to be made about the image quality of the symbol based upon the stored apriori reference image quality data.

4-9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) A method of storing apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one image quality characteristic of at least one ~~encoded~~ symbol ~~disposed~~ printed on a check, the method comprising:

storing the apriori reference image quality data which is representative of the at least one image quality characteristic of the ~~encoded~~ symbol printed on the check to allow a determination to be made about the image quality of the symbol based upon the stored apriori reference image quality data.

11. (currently amended) A method of providing an indication of quality of an image of a financial document other than currency, the method comprising:

storing on the financial document apriori reference image quality data which is representative of ~~at least one~~ an image quality characteristic of at least one symbol printed on the financial document;

receiving image data which is representative of the image of the financial document;

retrieving the stored apriori reference image quality data;

comparing the retrieved apriori reference image quality data with the image data which is representative of the image of the financial document to determine the image quality of the symbol printed on the financial document; and

providing an indication of quality of the image of the financial document based upon the comparison of the apriori reference image quality data with the image data.

12-13. (canceled)